

In the Specification:

Page 1, line 2, after the title, please insert the heading -Technical Field-.

Page 1, line 5, please insert the heading -Background Discussion-.

Page 1, line 27, please insert the heading -Summary of the Invention-.

Page 2, please replace paragraphs 2-7, beginning at line 4, with the following:

The present invention therefore provides an applicator, ~~said applicator~~ comprising a barrel portion and a handle portion attached thereto, ~~said the~~ barrel portion comprising means for holding a surgical clip and ~~said the~~ handle comprising trigger means, ~~said the~~ trigger means being operative to effect closure of a surgical clip held within ~~said the~~ barrel by movement of ~~said the~~ trigger from a first position to a second position at which second position ~~said the~~ applicator is operative to effect closure of ~~said the~~ clip, and in which ~~said the~~ trigger is provided with a visual indicator means indicative of an intermediate trigger position, at which intermediate position ~~said the~~ surgical clip held in ~~said the~~ barrel is closed to a half closed position.

Preferably ~~said the~~ visual indication comprises an indentation on said trigger.

Alternatively ~~said the~~ visual indication comprises a reduced section of ~~said the~~ trigger.

In a further embodiment ~~said the~~ visual indication comprises groove means in ~~said the~~ trigger.

In ~~said~~ a further embodiment ~~said~~ the groove means may comprise means for engaging with a removable stop means, ~~said~~ the removable stop means being co-operative with a portion of ~~said~~ the handle to prevent movement of ~~said~~ the trigger past a predetermined position.

Preferably ~~said~~ the groove means is present on both sides of said trigger.

Page 3, please replace the first three paragraphs with the following:

Preferably ~~said~~ the stop means may comprise a U shaped member which is designed in a first locking position to sit within ~~said~~ the groove means and to protrude from ~~said~~ the groove means to form ~~said~~ the stop means.

Preferably ~~said~~ the U shaped member comprises spring steel or similar material ensuring secure engagement with ~~said~~ the groove means.

Preferably ~~said~~ the U shaped member comprises means for gripping by a surgeon to effect removal of ~~said~~ the U shaped member from ~~said~~ the trigger, enabling movement of ~~said~~ the trigger past ~~said~~ the predetermined position.

Page 3, please replace the 5th paragraph, beginning at line 15, with the following:

In a further embodiment the handle includes a recess, the trigger being pivotally mounted within the handle, the trigger being movable into ~~said~~ the recess when ~~said~~ the trigger is operated, and in which the trigger is dimensioned to have minimal clearance between itself and the recess over substantially the whole pivotal movement of the trigger.

Page 4, please replace the 4th paragraph, beginning at line 14, with the following:

The present invention also provides an applicator comprising a handle portion and a barrel portion, ~~said the~~ barrel portion having gripping means at a distal end from ~~said the~~ handle portion for gripping an object in which ~~said the~~ handle portion includes trigger means operative to move into and out of a main body portion of ~~said the~~ handle and being operative to move ~~said the~~ gripping means to grip an object and in which ~~said the~~ trigger means is provided with visual indication means indicating a defined intermediate position of ~~said the~~ trigger means, ~~said the~~ unusual indicator comprising a change in surface texture at an defined intermediate position ~~said the~~ surface texture change being dimensioned such that the clearance between the trigger means and ~~said the~~ main body portion is minimal, thereby removing the possibility of snagging surgical gloves on movement of the trigger.

Page 4, line 26, please insert the heading -Description of the Drawings-.

Page 5, line 19, please insert the heading -Detailed Description-.